

NEAR-TERM STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DELTA PLAN

1. IMPROVE THE RELIABILITY OF CALIFORNIA'S WATER SUPPLIES

1.1 Reduce vulnerabilities of the Delta's current water facilities: No matter what happens with the BDCP, we will continue to rely on current SWP and CVP, including through Delta conveyance, for many years.

1.1.1 Reduce the existing SWP maintenance backlog; reduce the duration of outages for maintenance and repairs; and decrease the risk of unscheduled outages due to failure

1.1.2 Upgrade the levees along the current through-Delta corridor conveying freshwater to the SWP and CVP intakes; strengthen levees to protect EBMUD's water supply aqueducts; convert CCWD's water canal into a flood-proof pipeline.

1.2 Reduce California's reliance on the Delta for future water supplies by diversifying local water supplies, using water more efficiently, and improving groundwater management.

1.2.1 Through the Integrated Regional Water Management Program and local water management plans, identify and implement feasible projects for conjunctive surface and groundwater use, water transfers, and more efficient water use. Develop viable projects for supplementing Delta water sources with alternative supplies (e.g. contaminated/brackish surface or groundwater, recycled water, sea water).

1.2.2 Expand the reliability element for all Agricultural or Urban Water Management Plans submitted by water suppliers that receive water from the Delta. In cooperation with DSC, the SWRCB and others, DWR should develop guidelines for completing the expanded water supply reliability element, including an updated set of water efficiency goals and conservation targets. Authorize DWR to evaluate whether the proposed actions will meet the performance measures and report on its findings

1.2.3 Improve groundwater management by updating DWR's *Bulletin 118: California's Groundwater*, especially the information about severely overdrafted groundwater basins, which hasn't been updated since the 1980s. Recommend the Legislature enact new legislation to require agencies that receive Delta water or rely on critically overdrafted groundwater basins to develop and implement a sustainable groundwater management plan when they apply for state funding for water projects.

1.3 Make fundamental decisions about SWP and CVP conveyance and storage to meet long term needs.

1.3.1 Complete and successfully permit the BDCP.

1.3.2 California Water Commission, DWR, and USBR should decide which large surface water storage projects (i.e. raising Shasta dam, the Sites off-stream reservoir, an in-Delta reservoir, raising Los Vaqueros dam, or the Temperance Flat reservoir on the upper San Joaquin River) are worth pursuing and then focus on moving those forward

1.3.3 DWR and its contractors in Solano and Napa counties should agree on how they will relocate the North Bay Aqueduct to improve the quality of water it delivers and reduce conflicts with the Delta ecosystem, and agree to a plan to finance the necessary improvements.

2. RESTORE THE DELTA ECOSYSTEM

- 2.1 Accelerate progress toward restoring 8,000 acres of tidal marsh and 10,000 to 20,000 acres of floodplain habitat to comply with the current biological opinions for the SWP and CVP. This includes breaking ground on long-planned restoration projects at Dutch Slough and the Cosumnes Preserve's McCormack-Willamson Tract, and expanding ecosystem restoration at Suisun Marsh, Prospect Island, and Cache Slough. Expedite Yolo Bypass restoration and floodway studies. Build restoration program capacity, including the development of landscape-scale conceptual models, to guide scientific experimentation and adaptive management. Support the Delta Conservancy in convening a Delta Restoration Network to support coordination, tracking, and adaptive management of restoration projects.
- 2.2 Complete the SWRCB's update of its standards for freshwater flows into the Delta and other elements of its Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan to protect water quality for a healthy Delta ecosystem. Continue to develop and implement TMDL's to reduce Delta pollutants.
- 2.3 Manage non-native species. Implement boat inspection program to prevent new mussel infestations and education and adaptive management in control of Brazilian water weed and water hyacinth, including application of adaptive management approaches to proposed large-scale weed control in ecosystem restoration projects.
- 2.4 Fully utilize ecosystem science to support Delta water operations. Add scientists and other technical staff to assimilate and interpret information being gathered by the IEP and other ongoing Delta monitoring and research programs. Integrate and report these studies' findings, as recommended by the Delta Science Program's independent review panels.

3. PROTECT THE DELTA AS A PLACE

- 3.1 Designate the Delta as a National Heritage Area to acknowledge its unique resources. This designation allows access to funds for environmental education and interpretation about the Delta and to build appreciation of the Delta by boosting outdoor recreation, agritourism, and historic preservation.
- 3.2 Promote wildlife-friendly farming and subsidence reversal.
 - 3.2.1 Encourage habitat enhancement and wildlife-friendly farming on agricultural lands, using Farm Bill conservation programs and other tools.
 - 3.2.2 Show that Delta soils can be rebuilt by large scale demonstrations of tule farming to reverse subsidence and sequester carbon on state lands at Sherman and Twitchell Islands.
- 3.3 Improve safety through emergency preparedness planning and diversifying the funds for levee improvements and repairs. Coordinate Delta emergency management agencies to implement improvements to emergency preparedness recommended in the SB 27 Multi-Hazard Coordination Task Force Report. Improve all Delta levees to the HMP standard or better, where justified, to ensure FEMA funds for disaster assistance and flood recovery. Target state funds for levee improvements by prioritizing improvements that protect state resources and by creating a local district to assess levee beneficiaries that currently don't contribute to levee maintenance or improvement, such as water agencies, highway and railroad users, and power agencies.

- 3.4 Accelerate planning for the Lower San Joaquin River flood by-pass near Paradise Cut to reduce flood hazards in San Joaquin County.

4. COORDINATE DELTA ACTIVITIES

- 4.1 Convene the Delta Plan implementation committee to coordinate actions of state, federal, and local agencies involved in implementing the Delta Plan.
- 4.2 Ensure agency actions are consistent with the Delta Plan by monitoring actions being approved, funded, or undertaken by state and local agencies.
- 4.3 Complete the Delta Science Plan to provide a shared view for monitoring and research that helps solve the Delta's problems.
- 4.4 Develop a financing plan that identifies the fund sources needed to implement key Delta Plan actions.